

the joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, the Virginia Coal and Energy Commission, and Virginia Veterans Cemetery Board. He is now the chairman of the board of the company his father began in 1922, the Manassas Ice and Fuel Company, Inc., and his son, Hal, is the president. He has served as president of the Virginia Municipal League and on the boards of United Virginia Bank and Crestar Bank. Mr. Parrish is one of the founders of the Prince William Hospital where he has served on the board of directors.

Mr. Parrish has been involved in far too many community clubs and groups to mention all of them at this time. Mr. Parrish is a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Manassas, the Kiwanis Club of Manassas, the American Red Cross, the Society for Preservation of Black Heritage, and Boy Scouts of America. He has also been a member of the Manassas Volunteer Fire Company since 1948.

In addition to the honors and credit to his name that I have already mentioned, he has also received the Distinguished Service Award from the Virginia Oil Men's Association and in 1998 was recognized by his peers by being named Virginia Oil Man of the Year. Also, in 1995 he served, along with his wife Mattie, as the grand marshal of the Manassas Christmas Parade.

He met Mattie during his years at Osborn High School in Manassas where they have been sweethearts since eighth grade. Mattie has been an incredible source of support and devotion ever since. They have two children and three grandchildren.

The most amazing thing about Mr. Parrish is that despite his long and distinguished career, he remains without a doubt one of the most humble public servants that can be found anywhere. Throughout his 50 years of public service and during his time in the military, he has shown extraordinary and tireless dedication to his country, state, city, church and family.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues join me in commending Delegate Harry Parrish for achieving 50 years of remarkable public service.

#### PEACE CORPS ANNIVERSARY

### HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join our colleagues and the tens of thousands of Americans who have served with the Peace Corps in celebrating its 40th anniversary.

I had the honor of working as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand, in what was then a small town where I taught English. When I returned to my "village" a few years ago, I was astonished to see not only how much had changed—but also to see how many of the students and former colleagues I knew three decades ago still remembered the work done so long ago.

There are few initiatives as successful as this one, and it is with tremendous pride that I count myself as one of the people lucky

enough to have had this experience. In the years since 1967, I have visited dozens of countries where Americans are performing Peace Corps service—and dozens more where their work is desperately needed.

I have met countless leaders in business, in charitable organizations, in government, in academia, in every walk of life whose service in the Peace Corps launched careers that have contributed in innumerable ways to the betterment of our country and the countries where they worked.

The Peace Corps does tremendous good overseas. It does wonders for the Americans who serve, and the millions more who benefit from the goodwill they instill in those who know them. And it does America proud. I salute it for its successful first 40 years, and hope it will continue a tradition unmatched by any other American initiative.

#### TRIBUTE TO VIRGIL SCHEIDT

### HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Virgil Scheidt, an outstanding citizen and dedicated community leader in Bartholomew County, Indiana. He recently retired as the Republican Party County Chairman and intends to spend more time with his lovely wife, Bettie, and eleven energetic grandchildren.

In addition to his service as County Chairman, Mr. Scheidt is a former State Chairman, a 30-year District Chairman, and a former County Treasurer. He has served as a delegate to the Republican State Convention each session since 1958 and as a delegate to the National Convention on seven separate occasions. Indiana Governors Edgar Whitcomb, Otis Bowen and Bob Orr have all recognized Mr. Scheidt's devotion by awarding him the Sagamore of the Wabash.

Privately, he farms 300 acres of land in Bartholomew County. As a pioneer in real estate, he developed both the Highland Ridge Subdivision and Woodridge Retail Center near Columbus, Indiana. Such achievements earned him the title Realtor of the Year in 1987 by the Columbus Board of Realtors.

Mr. Scheidt's passion for public service has made him an inspiration to all the residents of Bartholomew County. He is not only deeply regarded, but also deeply loved.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this respected man who has helped make selected communities of south central Indiana the pleasant places they are today.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2001 I had an urgent family medical issue. As

a result I missed rollcall votes Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, and 21. Please excuse my absence from this vote. If I were present, I would have voted "yea" on each vote.

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE CORPS

### HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 1, 2001*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, as a former Peace Corps volunteer, I am pleased to rise to speak in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Peace Corps.

When President John F. Kennedy signed the Executive Order establishing the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, the response to this bold initiative was both swift and enthusiastic. Less than six months later, the first volunteers had accepted the challenge and left for their two year assignments overseas.

In 1966 and 1967, I myself served as a volunteer in Somalia. It was a meaningful experience for me, and it allowed me to see that Peace Corps volunteers are the best grassroots ambassadors the United States can have. The Peace Corps provides direct aid to ordinary people, and it is probably one of the most cost-effective forms of foreign aid that there is.

I am also pleased to say that the state of Wisconsin leads the Peace Corps' legacy of service. The University of Wisconsin-Madison is the nation's top producer of volunteers, with other 2,300 graduates having joined the Peace Corps and bringing their skills and talents to dozens of countries.

Now, as we observe the Peace Corps' 40th anniversary, it continues to capture the imagination of the American people. It has emerged as an international model of citizen service and of practical, grassroots assistance to people in developing countries.

Additionally, Peace Corps volunteers also make a difference at home by continuing their community service, and strengthening Americans' appreciation of other cultures. By visiting classrooms, working with community groups, and speaking with friends and family members, Peace Corps volunteers are helping others learn more about the world in which we live, and helping to build a legacy of service for the next generation.

Today's 7000 volunteers are somewhat different than the volunteers of the early years. The average age has risen from 22 to 28, the percentage of women has increased from 35 to 60, the number of volunteers with graduate degrees is growing.

But having said that, I believe today's volunteers still share a characteristic with their predecessors that is a cornerstone of Peace Corps service—a commitment to the spirit of volunteerism and service that President Kennedy first envisioned 40 years ago.

I salute the Peace Corps and the thousands of volunteers who have served, and I look forward to many more years for this organization which has truly made a difference around the world.